

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02  
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P R 171439Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9629  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1014

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CSCE, YO  
SUBJECT: GERMAN PROTESTERS ARRESTED: FURTHER PETITIONS

REF: BELGRADE 928

1. THREE GERMANS FROM THE LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN,  
WHO CAME TO BELGRADE TO SEEK AMNESTY FOR JAILED WRITER  
MIHAJLO MIHAJLOV AND SERBIAN PRIEST SAVO BANKOVIC  
(REFTEL), WERE ARRESTED FEBRUARY 17, ACCORDING TO A  
BRITISH DIPLOMAT. POLICE ALSO TOOK THE PRESS CARDS OF  
TWO FOREIGN REPORTERS WHO WITNESSED THE ARREST.

2. GERMANS HAD BEEN ON A HUNGER STRIKE SINCE FEBRUARY 14  
TO PROTEST REFUSAL OF GOY OFFICIALS TO RECEIVE THEM.  
MILOVAN DIJILAS VISITED THEM IN THEIR HOTEL ROOM FEBRUARY 15,  
ACCORDING TO TWO SOURCES.

3. A PETITION TO THE CONSITUIONAL COURT REGARDING THE  
SEIZURE OF PASSPORTS SET OFF CURRENT ROUND OF PUBLICITY  
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ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN YUGOSLAVIA. EMBASSY HAS NOW OBTAINED  
COPIES OF TWO OTHER DISSIDENT DOCUMENTS. JOURNALISTS ARE RELUCTANT  
TO PUBLISH THEM BECAUSE THEY MIGHT BE A PROVOCATION,  
ACCORDING TO THE SCANDINAVIAN DIPLOMAT WHO RECEIVED  
THEM FROM AN AUSTRIAN JOURNALIST AND PASSED THEM TO US.  
TRANSLATIONS WILL BE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND ZAGREB.

4. ONE IS PART OF A DRAFT OF A LARGER WORK, ONE OF THE "BELGRADE 8" PROFESSORS TOLD A JOURNALIST. IT IS DIRECTED TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AND CHALLENGES THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF SECTIONS OF 15 FEDERAL AND REPUBLICAN LAWS WHICH LIMIT THE PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION. THE PETITION OBJECTS TO THESE LAWS NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR UNCONSTITUTIONALITY BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE CONTRARY TO THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND THE UN DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. THE OTHER DOCUMENT CONCERNS PRISON CONDITIONS AND WAS PREPARED BY STUDENTS, ACCORDING TO SCANDINAVIAN DIPLOMAT. THIS REPORT IS DIRECTED TO THE "HELSINKI COMMISSION", PRESUMABLY THE CSCE COMMISSION OF THE U.S. CONGRESS. THE FINAL PARAGRAPH SAYS: "IT IS TRUE THAT UNLIKE THE OTHER EASTERN COUNTRIES, YUGOSLAVIA DID LET THE HELSINKI COMMISSION INTO THE COUNTRY BUT IT DID NOT GIVE THE COMMISSION THE NECESSARY INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CONDITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES." THE REPORT CONCERNS BRUTALITY BY PRISON GUARDS, CRUEL PUNISHMENTS, FILTHY LIVING CONDITIONS, AND THE MURDER OF A PRISONER, VOJISLAV PACARIC, BY GUARDS AFTER AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE.

6. DJILAS HAD TOLD AMERICAN JOURNALIST THAT PETITION SUPPORTING CHARTER 77 WILL BE RELEASED SOMEWHERE IN THE WEST BECAUSE IT IS "TOO DANGEROUS" TO RELEASE IN YUGOSLAVIA.

7. COMMENT: ARREST OF GERMANS AND STRONGLY NEGATIVE PRESS COMMENT ABOUT THE WHOLE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EVE OF CSCE CONFERENCE ARE FROM REACTIONS BY GOY TO INCREASED DISSENT. YUGOSLAV DISSIDENTS WILL HAVE INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT AND A MEASURE OF PROTECTION FOR MOST OF THIS YEAR, BEFORE AND DURING CSCE MEETING. THEIR ACTIVITIES MAY WELL MOUNT IN INTENSITY AND PRODUCE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN AUTOCRATIC AND LIBERAL ELEMENTS IN THE YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP OVER HOW TO REACT. ARREST OF DJILAS OR "BELGRADE 8" ARE IN ALL LIKELIHOOD EVEN NOW BEING ADVOCATED BY SOME, IN SPITE OF AFFECT ON YUGOSLAV REPUTATION. IN THE MONTHS AHEAD WE EXPECT TO SEE MIXED SIGNS OF REPRESSION AND TOLERATION DESIGNED TO KEEP DISSIDENTS UNDER CONTROL WHILE STRIVING TO PRESERVE YUGOSLAV IMAGE OF RELATIVE LIBERALISM VIS-A-VIS NEIGHBORS TO THE EAST.  
YORK

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## Message Attributes

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